

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 251520Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 693
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4602

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, ET, NI, US
SUBJECT: GARBA ON ETHIOPIAN SITUATION AND USG ATTITUDE ON ECONOMIC IS
SUES
AT CIEC

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2005

1. IN ADDITION TO EXCHANGING VIEWS ON NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS IN
ZAIRE (REPORTED SEPTTEL), AMBASSADOR AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER
GARBA BRIEFLY DISCUSSED ETHIOPIAN SITUATION AND UPCOMING CIEC TALKS
AT THEIR MEETING APRIL 24

2. ETHIOPIA: GARBA SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED THE VISITING ETHIOPIAN
TEAM (REFTEL) BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HE HAD READ
A REPORT OF THE VISIT, HOWEVER. (TEAM WAS HEADED BY CAPTAIN WUBSHET
DESSIE AND MET WITH CHIEF OF STAFF, SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, BRIGADIER
SHELU YAR'ADUA. OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS WERE YILMA TADESSE,
ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN, AND A FIRST SECRETARY OF ETHIOPIAN
MK MFA ALEMAYEHUM ABEBE). GARBA SAID THAT WHILE NIGERIA WOULD
NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES,
INCLUDING ETHIOPIA, THE FMG REALLY HAS "QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE THE
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ETHIOPIAN REGIME IS HEADING." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THE
AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT USG HAD PLACED RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS
SHIPMENTS BUT THAT THE U.S. LIKE NIGERIA, CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA. GARBA MODDED IN
VIGOROUS ASSEST. GARBA SAID THAT
EVENTS IN DJIBOUTI COULD CAUSE REAL PROBLEMS FOR THE ETHIOPIANS.
HE SAID THAT THE LEADER OF THAT TERRITORY IS ATTEMPTING TO ASSURE

ITS INDEPENDENCE AFTER THE FRENCH LEAVE BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE ARAB LEAGUE, THUS THWARTING POSSIBLE SOMALI DESIGNS ON THE TERRITORY.

3. BRIEFING ON USG POSITION AT CIEC:

AMBASSADOR INFORMED GARBA THAT HE WOULD BE TRAVELING TO CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN ABIDJAN WEEK OF MAY 9. AMBASSADOR TOLD COMMISSIONER THAT HIGH-LEVEL DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE INCLUDE UNDER SECRETARIES HABIB AND COOPER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE. RECALLING THAT FORMER UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S VISIT TO NIGERIA HAD HAD TO BE CANCELLED LAST YEAR, AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THERE MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY THAT UNDER SECRETARY COOPER WOULD ASK ABOUT VISITING NIGERIA TO EXPLAIN THE USG POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MATTERS AND CIEC. GARBA'S RESPONSE: "IF HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY, NIGERIANS ARE WILLING TO LISTEN."
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